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wherein adjacent turns of said plurality of turns of said spiral shape are secured together by a bonding agent so as to form a tubular duct; and
wherein said tubular duct is noncombustible.

16. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 15, wherein said bonding agent comprises a noncombustible bonding agent.

17. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 16, wherein said insulating material comprises a noncombustible insulating fiber.

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18. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 15, wherein said insulating material comprises a noncombustible insulating fiber.

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19. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 18, wherein said noncombustible insulating fiber is glass wool.

20. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 18, wherein said noncombustible insulating fiber is rock wool.

21. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 15, wherein said elongated strip has a substantially rectangular cross section.

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22. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct comprising:
an elongated strip formed of an insulating material and a noncombustible sheet encasing said insulating material;
wherein said elongated strip is arranged in a spiral shape having a plurality of turns;

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wherein adjacent turns of said plurality of turns of said spiral shape are secured together by a noncombustible joint member so as to form a tubular duct; and

wherein said tubular duct is noncombustible.

23. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 22, wherein said insulating material comprises a noncombustible insulating fiber.

24. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 23, wherein said noncombustible insulating fiber is glass wool.

25. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 23, wherein said noncombustible insulating fiber is rock wool.

26. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 22, wherein said elongated strip has a substantially rectangular cross section.

27. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 22, wherein said elongated strip has first and second opposite sides facing in opposing axial directions of said tubular duct, respectively, and inner and outer sides facing toward an interior of said tubular duct and an exterior of said tubular duct, respectively;

said elongated strip has flanges projecting from said first and second sides thereof, respectively; and

said noncombustible joint member is secured to said flanges of adjacent turns of said elongated strip to connect said flanges together, thereby connecting said turns together.

28. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 27, wherein

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said flanges include axially-extending portions extending in axial directions of said tubular duct; and

said noncombustible joint member has opposing side edges that are in a folded-over relation with said axially extending portions of said flanges of the adjacent turns of said elongated strip.

29. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 28, wherein said elongated strip has a substantially rectangular cross section.

30. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 28, wherein said flanges project toward the interior of said tubular duct, and said noncombustible joint member is disposed in the interior of said tubular duct.

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31. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct comprising:
an elongated strip formed of an insulating material and a noncombustible sheet encasing said insulating material;
wherein said elongated strip is arranged in a spiral shape having a plurality of turns;
wherein adjacent turns of said plurality of turns of said spiral shape are secured together by both a bonding agent and a noncombustible joint member so as to form a tubular duct;
and
wherein said tubular duct is noncombustible.

32. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 31, wherein said insulating material comprises a noncombustible insulating fiber.

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33. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 32, wherein said noncombustible insulating fiber is glass wool.

34. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 32, wherein said noncombustible insulating fiber is rock wool.

35. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 31, wherein said elongated strip has a substantially rectangular cross section.

36. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 31, wherein said elongated strip has first and second opposite sides facing in opposing axial directions of said tubular duct, respectively, and inner and outer sides facing toward an interior of said tubular duct and an exterior of said tubular duct, respectively;

said elongated strip has flanges projecting from said first and second sides thereof, respectively; and

said noncombustible joint member is secured to said flanges of adjacent turns of said elongated strip to connect said flanges together, thereby connecting said turns together.

37. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 36, wherein said flanges include axially-extending portions extending in axial directions of said tubular duct; and

said noncombustible joint member has opposing side edges that are in a folded-over relation with said axially extending portions of said flanges of the adjacent turns of said elongated strip.

38. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 37, wherein said elongated strip has a substantially rectangular cross section.

39. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 37, wherein said bonding agent comprises a noncombustible bonding agent.

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40. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 31, wherein said bonding agent comprises a noncombustible bonding agent.

41. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to claim 31, wherein said flanges project toward the interior of said tubular duct, and said noncombustible joint member is disposed in the interior of said tubular duct.
